The Animal Identification & Information Systems Council met on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. during the 2016 NIAA Annual Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, with approximately 75 people present. Drs. Robert Fourdraine and Boyd Parr served as Co-Chairs.

The Animal Identification & Information Systems Council session focused on progress in regards to the implementation of ADT, lessons learned from the HPAI outbreak, reports on use of UHF tags and new smart technology on the farm. The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to the topics mentioned above:

Mr. Neil Hammerschmidt – Program Manager, Animal Disease Traceability, USDA APHIS VS, presented "USDA Update on ADT"

Neil Hammerschmidt presented progress made in the implementation of ADT, some of the most significant changes are that backtags are no longer accepted as official ID and the volume of records that are searchable in data systems has increased.

ADT is performance based, the first comparison analysis was completed in 2015. There are basically two measures; where was the animal tagged and how long did it take. Specific stages as to progress made are listed below.

1. In what State was an imported animal officially identified?
2. Where in the State was the animal officially identified?
3. From what State was an animal shipped?
4. From what location was an exported animal shipped?

#	National Baselines		1st Comparison		Baseline and 1st Comparison Average
	% Successful	Time	% Successful	Time	
1	NA	NA	87%	39 hr.	- - -
2	69%	88 hr.	88%	35 hr.	62 hr.
3	58%	138 hr.	84%	42 hr.	90 hr.
4	76%	264 hr.	88%	46 hr.	155 hr.

In all cases the percent records retrieved increased and time used decreased. The second comparison is underway and in the future USDA will provide a centralized system to replace the current spreadsheet method to collect state performance records.

USDA has continued to move forward with enforcement of ADT, focus is on application of official ID and use of ICVI's. Initial enforcement step uses consultation, second involves sending a letter and finally in

case of non-compliance the information is turned over to investigators. For 9 months, 1274 consultations took place, 1699 letters and 60 cases initiated.

Phase out of ID numbers that previously were considered official has started taking place in the past year. For example young animals using 900 series RFID tags are no longer considered officially identified. The number of 840 tags issued has grown in 2015 to over 6 million tags.

Priorities will focus on education, identifying cattle with official ID, collection of animal movement information, search ability of records, continuation to improve rule compliance and further development of ID technology.

Questions asked:
- Are official ID tags correlated correctly to the carcass in the slaughter plant, what is being done at FSIS and APHIS to address this issue?
- Will China accept industry traceability programs? No, needs to be a national official program (e.g. PVP)
- Will China accept all current ID methods run at the state level? No, need unified national program, some forms of ID won't work. Also includes feeder cattle

Jack Shere, DVM, PhD – Associate Deputy Administrator, USDA APHIS VS, presented "Biosecurity & Indemnity – The Path Forward"

ADT efforts have been focused on improving traceability for animal health, however without a major disease outbreak emphasis will be on traceability as to how it opens up trade opportunities. Ongoing negotiations are taking place with China and an exercise will be taking place in the upcoming year. Economics will drive the future of animal ID technology. Using future funding USDA will assist states in moving towards technologies that meet speed of commerce.

Given ADT is a top 10 priority for APHIS, there has been a lot of scrutiny on the funds that have been obtained from Congress. Therefore, states that aren't progressing and meeting goals will lose funding. USDA has instructed staff to conduct more enforcement actions. COOL is no longer being enforced by USDA.

Mr. Michael McGrath – Trace First, presented "Interstatelivestock.com Website Demo & Update"

Michael shared the history on how the website was developed. Initial challenge was in capturing the state regulations that drive movement of animals. To make the website more user friendly decision was made to make the information interactive versus placing scanned documents on the website. Contract was renewed for a second year. Any changes need to be reported to Tracefirst and will be included, in addition other species will be included in the next version. (equine, swine and sheep and goats) Will be sharing volume of use of the website and what types of requests were made.

Questions:
- Who are the customers?
- What is being done to market the website so people hear about the website? Up to NIAA and USAHA, however more effective way would be to done it through the individual states departments of animal health.

Dr. John Clifford – Chief Trade Advisor, USDA APHIS VS, presented "ADT from a 30,000 Foot View"

Presented by Dr, Shere, USDA is ready to start working on Phase 2, with a new administration coming into office in 9 months, it is unknown if changes will take place. USDA staff will explain the current program and strive towards continuity.

Dr. Stacey Schwabenlander – Senior Veterinarian, Minnesota Board of Animal Health, presented "Minnesota State Perspective on HPAI"

Originally thought spread of HPAI was under control, but found out disease moves very fast and current biosecurity measures are not controlling the spread. Business continuity was a key requirement to move forward eradicating the disease, decision was made to use the state permitting process to issue permits in the control area and not move any animals until permit was issued. The permit data would provide future traceability data. All poultry premises were entered into EMRS to get a premises ID, lack of an import function slowed down the process of getting premises ID's. The system since has been improved to allow for importing existing state data to generate premises ID's and generate forms automatically. Various challenges were found in terms of paperwork, verifications of movements and running test results in a timely manner to meet business needs. Used mapping software to interact with premises information which helped the process in the field, however the software had a user limit that needed to be increased.

Going forward the state has invested in developing a new interactive mapping software that provides different levels of user access levels allowing the state to give access to industry and still meet state confidentiality requirements.

Mr. Nephi Harvey – Fort Supply Technologies, presented "UHF Pilot Project Updates"

Fort Supply Technologies has worked with USDA and State Departments of Agriculture conducting pilot projects using the Hanor UHF panel tag. Typically the tag is applied using standard methods and data is recorded in a handheld device. In stationary situations, readers were located in entry ways to auction markets reading the UHF tags. In one market the RFID number was correlated with the market data through the market software. UHF tags were used in several projects on several ranches. Nephi shared experiences from various locations where the UHF tags were used.
Issues identified from users tag cost, color, integration, successes were recorded in terms of read rates, less stress on animals, easier paperwork, and users wanting to continue using the technology.

Questions asked:
- What is being done to ensure compatibility of animal ID technology across the market chain?
- Are there Data standards in place to ensure systems can talk to each other?

Mr. Tom Breunig – General Manager, SCR Dairy, Allflex, Inc, presented "Intelligent Animal ID"

Tom explained the concept and use of animal monitoring systems in monitoring health and activity in dairy cows. Based on research done by Cornell University rumination and activity data continually collected on the cows was a very good indicator to pick up on health issues that would occur soon after. Technology is typically used to improve herd management, but can also point at problems at an earlier stage. Additional advantages include selective treatments and reduced use of drugs, reduced death loss, lower incidence of issues such as DA's, and ability to monitor animals more closely in a cost effective manner.

In the future this technology will be expanded to other species and integration with RFID tags, and additional diagnostics.

Paul McGraw, DVM – Wisconsin State Veterinarian, Stacey Schwabenlander, DVM – Minnesota State Veterinarian, and David Schmitt, DVM – Iowa State Veterinarian, presented "Disease Traceability During 2015 Disease Outbreak"

Dr. McGraw reported on the use of the premises data in the response plan to the HPAI outbreak in Wisconsin 2015. The premises data was used in mapping software and was combined with license data.

Panel discussion: The panel members gave some additional comments on how HPAI was addressed in there state. The floor was opened to questions.

Question:
- What about suppliers of mail order chicks, how were those movements monitored? Each state has a permit process and visits with these locations annually

Business Meeting

Old Business: None

New Business:
- No new business brought to the table
- No changes to resolutions, and no new resolutions

USDA will continue measuring progress on ADT implementation. Phase 1 implementation was focused on highest risk cattle and building a solid foundation to gain industry support prior to moving forward with Phase 2. Due to trade requirements, USDA is ready to start implementation of Phase 2 which includes feeder cattle. This will require a close look at how the current use of the NEUS eartag system will be able to keep up with speed of commerce. USDA revisiting using future funding to invest in RFID tags and making these available.

Action plan:
1) Continue to work with USDA staff monitoring progress of ADT implementation and monitor what future plans are for Phase 2 implementation.
2) In 2016, visit with new leadership to find out if changes to ADT should be anticipated
3) Continue to monitor discussions in regards to UHF and data transfer standards
4) Secure private funding to maintain the intrastate movement website and expand to include other species.
5) Promote the intrastate movement website more aggressively through industry and States

General Discussion: None

Animal Identification & Information Systems Council Session adjourned at 12:00 PM.